



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

Ms Anne Marie Keane
Support Operations
Orange & Rockland Utilities
390 Route 59
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Ms Keane;

This letter addresses your request, on behalf of Orange and Rockland Utilities, to read the utility meters at the Westwood Chemical facility at 146 Tower Road, Middletown, New York (the "Westwood facility"). I understand that Orange and Rockland provides utility service to the Westwood facility and that, as part of its utility service, has a need to read the meters at the Westwood facility. As you know, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is performing emergency environmental cleanup at the Westwood facility in accordance with its response authorities under federal law.

As per our conversation on June 16, 2005, EPA has no objection to access by Orange and Rockland for the purpose of meter reading, provided that such access is carried out in accordance with EPA health and safety requirements. In order to assure that health and safety concerns are addressed, your meter reader, upon arrival at the Westwood facility, should check in with the site security officer, who will be located in the main lobby of the office building. One of EPA's site personnel will then accompany the meter reader while he is at the facility. Normal site operations are from 6:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

The gas meter is in an outdoor location very near to the office building. The electric meter is located in the electric room inside of the production building, which may be reached directly through a door leading to the outside. The meter reader will access the electric meter through that exterior door.

EPA has already taken action to stabilize the Westwood facility. Hazardous substances still located at the Westwood facility are predominantly inorganic salts in solution and in solid forms. The remaining human health threats posed by the hazardous substances at the Westwood facility are those that might result from direct contact with those materials. Based on the locations of the gas meter and electric meter, and based the requirement that the meter reader be accompanied by EPA site personnel, there would be no potential for direct contact of these materials by your meter reader.

Because of EPA's ongoing emergency cleanup activities at the Westwood facility, it is important that utility service continue without disruption. EPA's prime contractor, Earth Tech, is responsible to EPA for providing all services, equipment and personnel with which to conduct the cleanup. As such, the prime contractor will be able to make financial and other arrangements with Orange and Rockland with respect to the required utilities. Please contact Ryan Smith of Earth Tech to coordinate the transfer of utilities. He can be reached at the site (845) 692-9860.

Should you have any further questions please feel free to call me on my cell phone (908) 420-4514.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Perera".

Dilshad J. Perera, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency

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